

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al. Group Art Unit : 2626  
Appl. No. : 10/596,773 Examiner: Michael C. Colucci  
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019014)  
I.A. Filed : December 20, 2004 Confirmation No.: 1328  
For : VOICE/MUSICAL SOUND ENCODING DEVICE AND VOICE/MUSICAL  
SOUND ENCODING METHOD

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

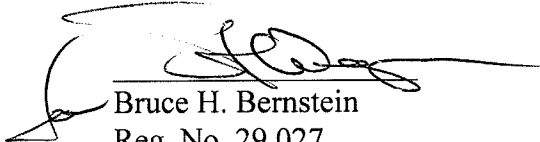
Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 21, 2010 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. While Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the combination of features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al.

  
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February 15, 2010  
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